

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

BULLETIN

No. 166.

July 1972

Registered at G.P.O. Hobart for transmission by post
as a periodical Category - B.

Club's Address - G.P.O. Box 68A. Hobart. 7001

NOTICE OF MEETING

Next meeting will be held in the Royal Society's Room, Tasmanian Museum, on Thursday, July 20th at 7.45.p.m.

BUSINESS

To discuss the proposed management plan drawn up by the South West Committee for the South West National Park.

Some members of the South West Committee will be in attendance to introduce the subject with a few slides and will outline their plans, together with their aims and reason for the plans. The meeting will then be thrown open for discussion.

NEXT OUTING

to Magra Caves. Saturday, July 22nd.

Leader, Miss B. Greenstreet.

Private Transport.

Meet opposite the Prince Theatre.

TIME - 9.a.m. so as to get home in good time !

MEMBERSHIP

The following members are welcomed to the Club.

Mr. John Chick, 20 Nilpena St. Mornington.

Mr. K. C. Tiller, Waterloo Crescent, Battery Point.

Mr and Mrs R.J.Hoyle, 12 Rosehill Crescent, Lenah Valley.

Miss Marian Coombs, 4 Willowdene Avenue, Sandy Bay.

Mr and Mrs Wheare, Grays Road, Ferntree.

John Whishaw, Friends School.

FIVE MINUTE TALK at the meeting -

This will be given by Mr Bert Shepherd.

Any Club member is invited to give a five minute talk before our meeting. This is NOT a very strenuous operation. We would love to hear something about what YOU have as an interest. Volunteers welcomed !

RURAL FIRES VOLUNTEERS

The Rural Fires Board are hoping to provide an organisation whereby people interested in remote areas can be called on for assistance in emergency.

A properly constituted organisation is necessary to ensure that each volunteer's actions are legal, that he has the protection of the Rural Fires Act and is covered by Workers Compensation.

It is vital that they be trained in the needed skills to make their firefighting efficient.

Where a Club has not enough suitable volunteers to form a group of its own, volunteers from various organisations could combine.

The Board employs stand-by forces. However, occasions arise when manpower is insufficient to deal with the number of fires that are burning. Such was the case in February, 1972, with the fire on Mt. Ann. The response from interested conservationists was very good.

We have already one volunteer from the Tas. Field Nats and anyone interested in backing up these efforts to protect our special areas by joining the volunteers is invited to let the Secretary know.

PROJECTIONIST

Miss D. Wise has volunteered to act as projectionist for Club meetings. This job could be shared and it would be wise for several members to learn how to set up and work the projector.

CORRECTION

It was stated in the last Bulletin that our Snow Gum, Eucalyptus coccifera (NOT coccinea) was given this name because the capsule is topped with red. It is true that there is red on it, but the tree was named 'coccifera' because of an insect (coccus) with which it was infected when first described.

LAST OUTING

This was a walk through from Lindisfarne to Bellerive via Rocky Tom, an outcrop on the range behind Flagstaff Gully. It was not as far as we expected so there was plenty of time for looking about. We boiled the billy and cooked our chops just in front of "Rocky Tom". Although cloudy, it was not a bit cold - just right for this kind of ramble - with its scramble up TOM.

Growing just behind the outcrop was quite a stand of Boronia variabilis, an erect shrub, 1-2 m. high, and with leaves which, when crushed, smelled strongly of turpentine. There is an illustration of it in Curtis Book 1. page 101.

Another interesting find was a gall - this type of gall grows on she-oaks, and each gall looks like a small pine cone, with a pointy end. This distinguishes it from the she-oak 'nuts' which are blunt ended.

Going through a paddock we found the remains of a bird and collected a sample of the different feathers. From these, Mr. Wall identified them as belonging to a spur-wing plover.

On Rocky Tom there were several types of lichen - some which could be easily collected and others growing so closely in the rock that they could not even be scraped off. Right on top were found the leaves of some type of Acianthus orchid.

FEDERATION OF FIELD NATURALISTS CLUBS

The next meeting will be held in Hobart in September. We expect it to be held on September 23rd (this is subject to confirmation) - which is the date of our usual monthly outing. This means that we could have our outing on the Sunday, and invite the visitors to join us. Last time we went up to Mt. Field National Park. This time we might try the Brown Mountain area. This would be on the way home for some of the delegates.

Would anyone like to billet a delegate (or two)?? We could have delegates from Wynyard, Burnie, Ulverstone, Devonport, Launceston, and the North-East. - a good opportunity for liaison between Clubs.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BILLET ANYONE PLEASE LET THE SECRETARY KNOW.

U.D.P.A.

This is a Planning Organisation which has been engaged by the Hobart City Council to do some research into the needs of Hobart Area so that future planning will be as all-embracing as possible.

Our Club will be sending a delegate to their special meetings for discussion on the environment. There is a comprehensive list of subjects to be talked over. They want our ideas on places which could be developed in various ways, areas best left as natural as possible, buildings or features worth preserving - and those which we consider should be removed! Buildings which could be restored and used for meeting places for clubs such as ours, how to make the most suitable use of our assets - such as Mt. Wellington... and so on.....

So, if you have any ideas we would like to hear them!

SAFETY IN THE BUSH

The Health Education Council, Department of Health Services Hobart, have, with the help of The Hobart Walking Club, The Police Search and Rescue Organisation, and Dr. Foxton, published a little fold-up pamphlet, printed on tough, waterproof paper, so that it can always be carried in your pocket when you are in the bush.

It contains articles on Preparation for the Trip; Whilst on the Trip; Survival in Blizzards and Avoiding death from exposure; action for survival; if you get lost; air searches for lost persons; Ground to Air Visual Codes;.. a lot of very useful information in a very small space, and attractively set out.

THE BIG FREEZE

How did YOUR garden fare? All my pelargoniums and most of the geranium, the Lion's Tail, the Fuschias, and many other things were really smitten.

Strange to say, not one of my 'wild' plants had a mark! I have gum, dollybush, dianella, mimosa wattle, riceana wattle, little round-leaved pigface from salt-marshes, chlogopappa, H. scutellifolium, pratia, tiny pelargonium, ferns and a climbing berry - all O.K.